

STRATHAM OPEN SPACE & CONNECTIVITY PLAN

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

September 2, 2022

1.) What is the Town's budget or budget range for this project?

The Town has allocated \$45,000 for this project in its Capital Improvement Plan, although the Town may have the ability to draw from some other funding sources to support the project. Accordingly, there should be some flexibility regarding the budget depending on what the proposals come back at.

2.) How were the Project Scope & Special Considerations outlined in the RFP developed? Was this done by the town, or was consultant assistance required?

The Town developed the Project Scope & Special Considerations on its own without consultant assistance. Solicitation of feedback was sought from various Boards and Commissions associated with open space and connectivity efforts in Stratham and staff tried to incorporate their input as much as possible, but the RFP was completed internally.

3.) The RFP notes the need for significant public input and engagement, including with under-represented communities. Are there specific outreach efforts that the Town envisions?

The Town encourages firms to be creative in their proposals related to public outreach. During the pandemic, the Town shifted its engagement efforts to move electronic outreach including electronic meetings, one-on-one interactions, small-scale open houses, and direct mail and e-mail communication. The Town found these outreach efforts to be effective and is open to non-traditional public outreach methods to hear from a representative range of the community.

4.) The RFP discusses connectivity between open space parcels and trail systems connections but what about connectivity on the existing road system and improving pedestrian and bicycle conditions along Portsmouth Avenue?

The Town is very interested in improving connectivity townwide both via its existing road and transportation networks and connections between existing open space parcels and trails. Stratham has an active pedestrian and bicycle community and in recent years more focus has been directed toward improving the walkability and bikeability of its roads. Additionally, there has been more focus, particularly this year, on working with the RPC and the State DOT to improve pedestrian and bike conditions along Portsmouth Avenue including making it easier for pedestrians and cyclists to cross the street, although major improvements would likely represent a long-term project.

5.) There is some discussion in the RFP of achieving a balance in Stratham between those focused on land preservation for environmental and agricultural purposes and

those focused on public access and recreation? Does the Town have any idea what form that will take?

The Town would like to see the Open Space & Connectivity Plan help guide that balance. Conservation land has been pursued in the community for a variety of reasons including for agricultural purposes, for water quality and supply, and for habitat and ecological protection. At the same time, demand for outdoor recreation opportunities has increased. We are hopeful that the public outreach efforts will help deliver a consensus in these areas.

6.) How will the project be overseen? Will it be overseen by staff or a specific Board or Commission?

The Town envisions that staff a steering committee with representatives from the Select Board, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, and Conservation Commission will help steer the plan's development. Town staff, including the Town Planner and Parks and Recreation Director, will be available to offer direction and consultation on a day-to-day basis.

7.) Does Stratham have the GIS files from its Master Plan development?

The Town has reached out to the consultant who assisted the Town with the Master Plan Update. If any files are forwarded or located, they will be shared with all those who have inquired about the Open Space & Connectivity Plan or participated in the pre-proposal conference.

8.) We're interested in finding a firm to partner with to submit to your Open Space & Connectivity Plan RFP. Would it be possible to get a plan holder list or a list of firms that submitted questions, along with contact information?

Maypop Collaborative - Melinda Cochran Davis
<https://maypopcollaborative.com/>

Agency Landscape + Planning – Brie Henshold
<https://agencylp.com/>

SE Group – Alex Belenz
<https://segroup.com>

Resilience Planning & Design, LLC – Steve Whitman
<https://resilienceplanning.net/>

Weston & Sampson - Cassie Bethoney
<https://www.westonandsampson.com/>

Rockingham Planning Comm. – Jenn Rowden, Robert Pruyne, and Tim Roache
<https://www.therpc.org/>

Harriman - David Scholder

<https://www.harriman.com>

Konveio LLC - Chris Haller

<https://konve.io/about-us>

9.) Was the pre-proposal conference recorded? If so, could I get a link to the recording?

No, unfortunately the conference was not recorded. However, the Town did host an informational internal meeting on the Open Space & Connectivity Plan back in June that was recorded. Much of the content shared was also discussed during the pre-proposal conference.

It can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KATIY3cdqxE&t=3422s>